

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 H-03 DODE-00 PM-07 OMB-01 DRC-01

/136 W

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R 211126Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9097

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 443

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR JCRC NKP

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: POW/MIA MATTERS IN LAOS

1. ICRC VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE HENRY SANGER CALLED ON EMBOFF TO REVIEW SUBJECT FOLLOWING VISITS BY ICRC GENDEL OTT AND REPRESENTATIVE CASELLA FROM UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

2. SANGER SAID OTT HAD PRESSED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND OTHER PATHET LAO OFFICIALS ON RELEASE OF EMMET KAY AND ON OTHER POW/MIA CASES. HE HAD RECEIVED PRO-FORMA REPLIES THAT MATTER WAS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION WITHIN JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA).

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3. SANGER ADDED THAT HE (SANGER) ALSO HAD APPROACHED PATHET LAO REPRESENTATION ON MAY 10 REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AFP CORRESPONDENT MARC FILLOUX, WHO CROSSED CAMBODIAN BORDER WITH UNIDENTIFIED VIETNAMESE GIRL ON APRIL 10 AND HAS NOT RETURNED TO LAOS. (FILLOUX'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS WIDELY REPORTED BY AFP.) SANGER SAID PATHET LAO CALLED HIM TO REPRESENTATION MAY 13 AND TOLD HIM HIS REQUEST HAD BEEN REFERRED TO SAM NEUA AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO PATHET LAO HEADQUARTERS IN ATTOPEU, SOUTH LAOS, TO DETERMINE WHETHER INFORMATION FILLOUX'S WHERE-

ABOUTS COULD BE OBTAINED. PATHET LAO REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH KHMER ON OTHER SIDE OF BORDER ON FILLOUX CASE. SANGER BELIEVES SWIFT PATHET LAO ACTION ON FILLOUX CASE IS GOOD SIGN FOR GENERAL MIA PICTURE.

4. SANGER SAID THAT AT CEREMONY MAY 21 FOR TURNOVER OF REFUGEE SUPPLIES FROM UNHCR TO PATHET LAO REPRESENTATION, LATTER HAD MADE UNUSUALLY APPRECIATIVE STATEMENTS, BOTH IN REGARD TO UNHCR AND ICRC.

5. SANGER SAID HE HAS CALLED AT DRV EMBASSY TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF REPATRIATION OF NVA PRISONERS HELD AT SAN KHE PRISON IN VIENTIANE. DRV EMBOFF WOULD SAY NOTHING MORE THAN THAT PRISONERS WERE INDEED VIETNAMESE, BUT WERE "PROBABLY VIETNAMESE SOUP SELLERS ROUNDED UP IN VIENTIANE AND PERSONS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ORIGIN ARRESTED IN SAIGON AND BROUGHT TO VIENTIANE FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES." SANGER NOW INTENDS TO FORMALLY REQUEST PATHET LAO REPRESENTATION'S ADVICE HAS TO WHETHER HE SHOULD VISIT VIETNAMESE PRISONERS, AS FIRST STEP IN ASSUMING INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN ICRC IN THEIR REPATRIATION. (ICRC REPS HAVE ALREADY MADE NUMEROUS INFORMAL VISITS TO NVA PRISONERS).

6. COMMENT: SANGER HAS BEEN IN LAOS FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS, BUT HITHERTO HAS STOOD IN SHADOW OF HIS PREDECESSOR, ICRC REPRESENTATIVE WERNER BLATTER, WHO WAS SYNAMIC FIGURE. WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT SANGER APPEARS TO BE INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO FILL CONFIDENTIAL

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BLATTER'S SHOES. SANGER IS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT EMMET KAY WILL BE RELEASED OR OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAOS PROTOCOL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY JUNE 4 DEADLINE. HE POINTED OUT THAT LAO PARTIES HAVE HAD RATHER POOR RECORD OF MEETING DEADLINES. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT PATHET LAO ARE MOVING GRADUALLY TO UNDERSTAND WESTERN VIEWPOINT ON IMPORTANCE OF POW/MIA RESOLUTION.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MIA, REFUGEES, POW RETURN  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** POW/MIA MATTERS IN LAOS  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PGOV, LA, ICRC, (SANGER, HENRY), (KAY, EMMET)  
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**Type:** TE  
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